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IEPA NEWS

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For Immediate Release
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Sauget, Ill., July 5, 1990 . . . The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) announced today that Cerro Copper Products Company of Sauget, Illinois has agreed to remove contaminated materials from a section of Dead Creek identified as "Creek Segment A". The removal action, scheduled to begin in mid-August, 1990, is the result of negotiations between IEPA, the Illinois Office of the Attorney General and Cerro Copper.

"The Agency is pleased to see Cerro Copper take a corporate leadership role in addressing the hazardous waste problems in the Dead Creek area of Sauget and Cahokia," said Bernard P. Killian, IEPA Director. "IEPA and area residents have long been concerned about potential environmental and public health effects related to industrial waste disposal practices of the past."

The Consent Agreement signed by the state and the company calls for the removal of approximately 20,000 cubic yards of contaminated creek sediment from the segment of Dead Creek (Creek Segment A) located within Cerro Copper's property boundaries. The creek segment is contaminated with heavy metals (cadmium, mercury, barium, etc.), volatile organic chemicals and low levels of PCBs contributed by decades of industrial discharge, sewer discharge and area run-off. Removal and dewatering of creek contamination will be overseen

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by IEPA personnel. The waste material must be sent to an approved, permitted landfill. The excavated area must then be backfilled with clean soil and properly graded to direct stormwater toward the Queeny Avenue stormsewer.

IEPA considers the Creek Segment A project to be an important first step in the search for solutions to the entire area's contamination problems. The second step would be a successful conclusion to current negotiations with other local industries to remediate seven more sites. The Agency performed a \$1.3 million expanded site investigation of the Sauget Sites area in preparation for the third step, proving to the U.S.EPA that the project qualifies for the National Priorities List (NPL) of federal Superfund sites. No new sites are being accepted by U.S.EPA until a revised NPL scoring system is put in place to determine qualified sites.

Once placed on the NPL, the state and federal EPAs would have both federal funding to undertake cleanup activities and federal Justice Department support in taking enforcement action against responsible parties for recovery of federal remedial funds. Such action is a vital part of U.S.EPA Administrator William Reilly's new long term strategy for improvement of the Superfund program. The Agency can recover three times its costs from responsible parties who fail to take proper remedial action.

Citizens and local officials who wish to know more about the Cerro project are welcome to review the Site Investigation/Feasibility Study for Creek Segment A report at the Cahokia Public Library or the Sauget Village Clerk's Office. Questions about the Sauget Sites project or federal Superfund program should be directed to Keri Luly at 217/782-5562 or Paul Takacs at 217/782-6760. To be added to the project update mailing list, citizens should also contact Keri Luly.

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